X½ Church

and temple¢

THE CHURCH CHRIST WOULD BUILD.

Matt. 16:18 Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church.

Intro. The wane of "Go To Church Sunday" in Va. However, appropriate to speak of the church.

The recognized importance of religion today.

The text. Jesus had in mind a church, not a building made out of boards or bricks or concrete. A church build out of men and women, boys and girls who see in Jesus what Peter saw, who profess to be loyal to him as Peter did, and who aim to life according to the Christ-standard as Peter did. A church built out ofnth the children of God on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not have in mind a church characterized by ecclesiastical distinctions. Jesus said very little, practically nothing about polity or creed.

Polity and creed divide Christians, but Jesus ever tried to gather them together and to we ld them together by saturating their minds with his simple but Bundamental ideas of right living, by flooding their hearts with his spirit and by giving to their lives the highest mission, that of building the kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus believed in organization and in belonging to the church.

Many persons purpose to live Xn lives but without profession, without belonging to the church, on the gwound that they can do more good by living free from the church and indepen dent in their actions. The great organization of the church is too conservative and slow for them, and holds to too many worn-out beliefs.

But Jesus never deserted the synagogue and temple.

He observed the festivals of the church. His last act was to delebrate the passover.
Jesus recognized the force and influence of organized effort.

One person by himself cannot sing an oratio or render a Fifth Symphony. Suppose persons in such attitude toward the army had gone to Europe during the War to fight the Germans on their own account?

Evil in the world is a powerful force and it takes a united effort to combat it. The great need of Protestantism today is to get together. The Church of Christ will never be built until we do get together.

The one thing that Jesus desires to build into the hearts and lives of God's children composing the church is character- the character of God.

Some people think that this world is run by money and brains. Europe, before the war, had wealth, brawn and brains; also organized government with armament and secret diplomacy enough to usher in the millenium, but instead, Europe ushered in the great war which caused civilizatn to totter. The one thing which Europe lacked to make her safe was character. She was wise enough and rich enough and strong enough, but Europe was not good enough, to do what should have been done.

It is the realization of this lack that has caused the thinking leadership of the world to emphasize the importance of religion in life.

The religion of Jesus Christ teaches us to love God supremely and oneother unselfishly, to obey the laws of God for our own well-being and to live our lives as a blessing.

The Church distinguished from other organizations by three charqcteristics.

1. The church gives expression to the Spirit of God and Christ. A more than human agency.

2. The Church is the main instrument thru which Christ accomplishes his purpose in the world.

3. The Church is the transforming agency which converts the raw material of earthly creatures

into the structure and life of the K.of G. on earth.

How casually and even carelessly we ofta say, I belong to thechurch; but how much it really means, in inspiration and fellowship a and service.